

Judge Leighton

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

LEON LETROY ANDERSON,

Defendant.

NO. CR09-5397RBL

DEFENDANT'S SENTENCING MEMORANDUM

COMES NOW the Defendant, Leon Letroy Anderson, by and through his attorney of record, Charles A. Johnston, and submits the following Memorandum for the Court to consider at the time of sentencing.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Defendant, Leon Letroy Anderson, comes before the Court on January 15, 2010 for a sentencing on one Count of Bank Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028(A), a Class B Felony, punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of thirty (30) years. The Defendant entered a guilty plea to that charge on October 7, 2009.

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II. GUIDELINES CALCULATIONS

1 The Defendant agrees with the Presentence Report and the Government that the
2 Defendant's offence level is 18, that his criminal history is III and that the resulting applicable
3 Guideline range is 33 -41 months imprisonment.
4

III. DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

5 The Defense recommends a 3-level downward departure and a sentence of 18 months, for
6 the reasons set forth below.
7

IV. BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

A. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

10 The Defendant suffered extraordinary physical and sexual abuse as a child. The courts
11 have allowed a downward departure because of extraordinary physical or sexual abuse suffered
12 as a child. *U.S. v Walter* 256 F. 3d 891 (9th Cir. 2001). In fact, courts have stated that it is
13 beyond question that abuse suffered during childhood can impair a person's mental and
14 emotional conditions. These conditions result in the individual facing extraordinary problems
15 developing into responsible, productive citizens.
16

17 The Defendant came from a dysfunctional and abusive home. At a very early age he was
18 subject to sexual abuse and physical abuse. Additionally, the Defendant was subjected to severe
19 emotional abuse by both natural parents. His mother left him in a hotel room. His aunt picked
20 him up two days later and he never saw his mother again for almost six years. The Defendant
21 was six years old at the time. His father never expressed any emotion towards the Defendant.
22 He never supported him emotionally in any way.
23

24 As stated earlier, this physical, sexual and emotional abuse makes it very difficult for an
25 individual to develop into a responsible, productive citizen.
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1 **B. DEFENDANT HAS MANIFESTED SUPER ACCEPTANCE FOR HIS**
 2 **RESPONSIBILITY**

3 The Court can depart downward from the range if it determines that the reduction for
 4 acceptance of responsibility does not adequately reflect the Defendant's acceptance. *U.S. v*
Brown 985 F. 2d 478 (9th Cir. 1993).

5 The Defendant, almost from the day he was arrested, has accepted all responsibility for
 6 his actions. He has constantly told me that he committed these crimes, he knew it was wrong
 7 and will accept any punishment imposed by the Court.

8 **C. DEFENDANT HAS SHOWN EXTREME REMORSE**

9 The courts have allowed a downward departure where a defendant has shown great
 10 remorse "to an exceptional degree" even though the defendant has already received adjustment
 11 for acceptance of responsibility.

12 The Defendant has shown extreme remorse for his conduct. So much so, that he has done
 13 very little to aid me in providing materials or a basis for a downward departure to this Court. As
 14 stated above, he simply states words to the effect that he has committed these crimes, he knows
 15 he should be punished and will accept the Court's decision.

16 **D. DEFENDANT HAS ENGAGED IN CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY**
 17 **ACTIVITIES**

18 Courts have recognized a downward departure for community service and/or charitable
 19 works performed by a defendant.

20 The Defendant has become very involved in his church. I have had the opportunity to sit
 21 with the Defendant's Pastor and he informs me that the Defendant is very much involved in his
 22 church and that the Defendant performs a great deal of community service for his church and is
 23

1 very helpful to his congregation. His Pastor has been present at every court hearing and informs
 2 me that the Defendant has the love and support of himself and his congregation.

3 **E. RESTITUTION**

4 The courts have recognized a basis for a downward departure where it would result in a
 5 defendant being able to pay restitution back to the victims of the crime.

6 The Defendant has a real financial challenge to face upon his release from incarceration.
 7 The Defendant recognizes that challenge and intends to do everything in his power to pay back
 8 the victims of his actions. In the current job market, he has been unable to find employment
 9 while this sentencing has been pending. However, through the friends he has made at his church,
 10 he is optimistic that he will find employment quickly upon his release. The Defense believes it is
 11 in the community's best interest to have the Defendant serve a reasonable amount of time of
 12 incarceration for his conduct and then to get him back into the community and working so that
 13 he can begin to make restitution payments.

14 **F. SENTENCING FACTORS AS SET FORTH IN 18 U.S.C. § 3553**

15 The Court, in sentencing the Defendant, must now take into consideration all of the
 16 statutory concerns set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553, which requires courts to "impose a sentence
 17 sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the provisions of ¶ 2. Section
 18 3553(a)(2) states that such purposes are:

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- 20 (A) To reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law and to
 21 provide just punishment for the offense;
- 22 (B) To afford adequate deterrent to criminal conduct;
- 23 (C) To protect the public from further crimes of the Defendant; and

1 (D) To provide the Defendant with needed education or vocational training, medical
2 care or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner.

3 Section 3553(a) further directs sentencing courts to consider, among other factors, the nature and
4 circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the Defendant; the kinds of
5 sentences available; the need to avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities among Defendants
6 with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and, the need to provide
7 restitution to any victims of the offense. The Defendant's sentence must, above all, be
8 "reasonable" in light of the above-mentioned statutory factors. The sentencing court has
9 discretion to fashion a sentence to fit the particular needs of a Defendant after taking into
10 consideration these statutory factors. The sentence recommended by the defense of eighteen (18)
11 months is sufficient, yet no more than necessary to satisfy the statutory purposes set forth above

12 IV. CONCLUSION

13 For all of the foregoing reasons, the Defense asks the Court to sentence the Defendant,
14 Leon Letroy Anderson, to a term of incarceration of eighteen (18) months.

16 DATED this 13th day of January, 2010.

17 Respectfully submitted,

20 _____
21 Charles A. Johnston / WSBA No. 9058
22 Attorney for Defendant, Leon Letroy Anderson

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 13th, 2010, I electronically filed the foregoing Defendant's Sentencing Memorandum with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to each participant in this case and a copy was mailed to the Defendant via the U.S. Postal Service.

DATED this 13th day of January, 2010.

Kim Kohn, Legal Assistant